

TAB 1: INTRODUCTION TO CAPAFR

CAPAFR Background

The Coalition of Asian Pacific Americans for Fair Redistricting (CAPAFR) is a nonpartisan coalition working to strengthen the voice of Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) communities in California during the 2011 redistricting process. CAPAFR's main strategies are to educate AAPI community members about redistricting, help them provide input to the Citizens Redistricting Commission about their communities of interest, and submit proposals for assembly and senate districts that show how boundaries can best be placed to respect the integrity of AAPI communities.

CAPAFR was initially formed around the drawing of assembly districts during the 1991 redistricting, with a focus on districts in Los Angeles and San Francisco Counties. During the 2001 redistricting, CAPAFR expanded its outreach and advocacy efforts to additional counties in California with significant AAPI populations and was the first to submit a statewide assembly proposal focused on ensuring fair representation for AAPI communities.

CAPAFR's website is www.capafrr.org.

CAPAFR Principles

CAPAFR has followed three underlying principles in carrying out its work:

1. District boundaries should comply with the Voting Rights Act to ensure that minority populations have an equal opportunity to participate in the political process and elect candidates of their choice.
2. Districts should respect the integrity of communities of interest and neighborhoods.
3. Redistricting should be conducted in collaboration with other stakeholders, including African American, Latino, LGBT (lesbian, gay, bisexual, & transgender), and environmental communities.

CAPAFR Structure and Participants

CAPAFR is structured as a statewide network of ten regional committees. Each committee is made up of AAPI organizations and individuals in the committee's region. Each committee is led by a lead organization which brings stakeholders together to learn about redistricting.

From north to south, the regional coalitions are:

Sacramento County

Regional lead organization: Council of Asian Pacific Islanders Together for Advocacy & Leadership (CAPITAL)

Organizations that participated in the CAPAFR-Sacramento process include:

- Council of Asian Pacific Islanders Together for Advocacy & Leadership
- Asian Resources Inc
- Asian Pacific American Public-Affairs Association
- Florin Japanese American Citizen's League
- National Organization of Chinese Americans
- Center for Collaborative Policy
- KAPITBAHAY
- Sacramento Asian American Minority Inc
- Pacific Islander Council of Leaders
- Hmong Women Heritage Association
- Central Valley Asian Chamber of Commerce
- Asian Pacific Islander Seniors Partnership
- Asian Community Center
- My Sister's House
- Hui O Hawaii of Sacramento
- Council on American-Islamic Relations
- Asian Pacific State Employees Association
- To'utupu Oeotu Felenite Association
- Sacramento Pacific Islander Leadership Forum

San Francisco and San Mateo Counties

Regional lead organization: Asian Law Caucus

Organizations that participated in the CAPAFR-San Francisco/San Mateo process include:

- Pilipino Bayanihan Resource Center
- Gay Asian Pacific Alliance
- Asian Pacific American Community Center
- Visitation Valley Asian Alliance
- Pilipino Senior Resource Center
- Laotian American National Alliance
- Luzvimin
- Resource Center for Children Youth and Families
- Japanese American Citizens League
- San Mateo Japanese Community Center, and Peninsula Interfaith Action.

Alameda County

Regional lead organization: East Bay Asian Voter Education Consortium (EBAVEC)

Organizations that participated in the CAPAFR-Alameda process include:

- East Bay Asian Voter Education Consortium
- Vietnamese American Community Center of the East Bay
- Asian Health Services

Korean Community Center of the East Bay
Chinese American Political Association
Organization of Chinese Americans – East Bay Chapter
Oakland Chinatown Chamber of Commerce
National Asian Pacific American Women’s Forum - Bay Area Chapter
Asian Pacific Islander American Public Affairs Association
Filipino Advocates for Justice

Santa Clara County

Regional lead organization: Asian Law Alliance

Organizations that participated in the CAPAFR-Santa Clara process include:

Asian Law Alliance
Asian American Center of SCC (AASC)
Asian Americans for Community Involvement (AACI)
Asian Pacific American Leadership Institute (APALI)
Cambodian Women’s Association (CWA)
Filipino Youth Coalition (FYC)
Organization of Chinese Americans Silicon Valley
San Jose Japanese American Citizen’s League
Silicon Valley Japanese American Citizen’s League
South Bay First Thursdays (SBFT)
Vietnamese American Community of Northern California (VACNORCAL)

Fresno County

Regional lead organization: Fresno Center for New Americans

Organizations that participated in the CAPAFR-Fresno process include:

Fresno Center for New Americans
Empowerment Institute
Lao Veterans of America
Hmong International New Year
Hmong Farmers of America
Cambodian Reconciliation Committee
Southeast Asian Education Council
Lao Family Community of Fresno
Khmer Society of Fresno
UC Cooperatives, Small Farms Program

Los Angeles County - Metro

Regional lead organization: Asian Pacific Policy & Planning Council (A3PCON)

Organizations that participated in the CAPAFR-LA Metro process include:

Asian Pacific Policy & Planning Council
Thai Community Development Corporation
Search to Involve Pilipino Americans
Korean American Coalition
Little Tokyo Service Center
Chinatown Service Center

Filipino American Service Group Inc
Japanese American Citizens League-Pacific Southwest
Koreatown Neighborhood Council
Korean Resource Center
Koreatown Youth and Community Center
Asian Professional Exchange
People's Community Organization for Reform and Empowerment
Asian American Drug Abuse Program
Center for Asian Americans United for Self Empowerment
AARP's Greater LA Chinatown Chapter

Los Angeles County - San Gabriel Valley

Regional lead organization: Asian Pacific Policy & Planning Council (A3PCON)

Organizations that participated in the CAPAFR-LA San Gabriel Valley process include:

Asian Pacific Policy & Planning Council
Center for Asian Americans United for Self Empowerment
Chinese American Citizens League-Los Angeles
OCA-Greater Los Angeles Chapter
Taiwanese American Citizens League

Los Angeles County - South Bay

Regional lead organization: Asian Pacific Policy & Planning Council (A3PCON)

Organizations that participated in the CAPAFR-LA South Bay process include:

Asian Pacific Policy & Planning Council
Pacific Islander Health Partnership
Pacific Islander Community Council
Empowering Pacific Islander Community
Guam Communication Network
Samoan National Nurses Association
Office of Samoan Affairs
Tongan Community Service Center
United Cambodian Community
Khmer Girls in Action
Japanese Historical Society of Southern California

Orange County

Regional lead organization: Orange County Asian & Pacific Islander Community Alliance (OCAPICA)

Organizations that participated in the CAPAFR-Orange County process include:

Orange County Asian & Pacific Islander Community Alliance
Vietnamese American Community of Southern California
Southeast Los Angeles North Orange County Japanese American Citizens League
Islamic Institute of Orange County
Asian American Senior Citizens Service Center
Chinese American Lions Club of Orange County
South Coast Chinese Cultural Association

Orange County Asian American Bar Association
Orange County Korean-U.S. Citizens League
Pacific Islander Health Partnership
Vietnamese American Chamber of Commerce
Islamic Society of Orange County
Chapman Asian Pacific American Law Students Association
Empowering Pacific Islander Communities
Orange County Korean American Health Information and Education Center
Council on American-Islamic Relations – Los Angeles
Boat People SOS

San Diego County

Regional lead organization: Southwest Center for Asian Pacific American Law (SCAPAL)

Organizations that participated in the CAPAFR-San Diego process include:

Southwest Center for Asian Pacific American Law
Asian Heritage Society
Concerned Filipino Americans Club
Council of Philippine American Organizations
Empowering Pacific Islander Communities
Japanese American Citizens League
Kalusugan FilAm Wellness Center
Lao American Coalition San Diego
National Federation of Filipino American Associations Region 10
National Multicultural Business Network
Thai-American Association of San Diego
Asian Business Association of San Diego
Vietnamese American Voters Alliance - San Diego
Center for Asian and Pacific Studies, San Diego State University (education center participating in regional redistricting process)

CAPAFR Process and Activities

Each regional CAPAFR held four community meetings. The first three were to educate the community, obtain community of interest information, and obtain community mapping priorities. In the fourth meeting, the regional CAPAFRs finalized the mapping proposals affecting their areas.

Prior to the fourth meeting, web-based conference calls were held with regional AAPI community leaders to obtain input on draft mapping proposals. For many of the regions, web-based conference calls were also held with regional non-AAPI community leaders for the same purpose. Prior to the completion of the fourth set of meetings, the CAPAFR proposals were shared with Latino, African American, and environmental statewide stakeholders.

The lead organization for each regional CAPAFR provided assistance to community members who wished to testify at their regional commission hearing. APALC provided maps to support the testimony of community members.

APALC Background and Role

The Asian Pacific American Legal Center (APALC) is the leading organization in Southern California dedicated to providing the growing AAPI community with multilingual and culturally sensitive legal services, education, and civil rights support. APALC is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization that was founded in 1983. APALC's role in the redistricting process is to serve as CAPAFR's anchor and to provide AAPI community members with educational, legal, research and mapping support.

1990-1991 marked APALC's first formal participation in the redistricting process. APALC anchored CAPAFR's efforts in Los Angeles County. Working closely with Latino community organizations, CAPAFR was successful in brokering plans which protected the voting interests of AAPI communities in the West San Gabriel Valley and the South Bay, and APALC was called on to send two of its staff attorneys to Sacramento to testify before the California Supreme Court in defense of these proposals.

During the 2001 redistricting, APALC again anchored CAPAFR, which was expanded to include community organizations across the state in seven regions. CAPAFR was successful in keeping several communities of interest intact and as mentioned above submitted the first statewide AAPI redistricting proposal.

In 2006, APALC became a Census Information Center (CIC), an official data dissemination center affiliated with the United States Census Bureau tasked with disseminating census data to underserved communities. With the capacity to process, analyze, and map statewide databases and access to embargoed census data and data tools available only to CICs, APALC is uniquely situated to provide research and mapping support as part of efforts to ensure that the redistricting process results in fair representation for AAPI communities.

APALC is a member of the Asian American Center for Advancing Justice, which works to promote a fair and equitable society for all by working for civil and human rights and empowering AAPIs and other underserved communities. The Asian American Center for Advancing Justice is comprised of APALC, the Asian American Justice Center in Washington, DC, the Asian American Institute in Chicago, and the Asian Law Caucus in San Francisco.

APALC's website is www.apalc.org